

MINUTES

TALBOT COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

5 March 2012

I. ROLL CALL

The regular monthly meeting of the Talbot County Historic Preservation Commission was called to order at 3:00 PM on Monday, 5 March 2012. Those members in attendance were Mr. Ward Bucher, Chairperson; Mrs. Marsha Kacher, Ms. Alice Marie Gravely and Ms. Peggy Pickall. Mr. Robert Amdur and Mr. Ron B. Mitchell were not in attendance. Representing the County were Mr. Martin Sokolich and Ms. Florence Ball.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. REVIEW MINUTES OF 6 February 2012 TCHPC MEETING – The minutes of the last meeting were read. A motion was made by Mrs. Marsha Kacher to approve the minutes as read which was seconded and unanimously carried.
- B. LETTER FOR SAMPLE SURVEY – Mr. Ward Bucher asked the Commissioners if they thought the previously reviewed survey letter should be finalized and sent. Mrs. Marsha Kacher and Ms. Alice Marie Gravely reminded Mr. Bucher that Mr. Ron Mitchell was supposed to revise the letter to reflect the Commission's suggestions, and since Mr. Mitchell was not present, the revisions were unavailable for review and comment and perhaps it can be reviewed through email.
- C. STATUS OF TCHPC COLUMN IN SHORE LIFE MAGAZINE – Ms. Alice Marie Gravely said she has sent the article she prepared on Beverly (T-240) to the publisher via email, but has not had a response. Several possibilities for the next article were discussed. Mr. Ward Bucher asked if there were any historic properties east of Route 50 that might have interesting historic appeal to readers of the article. Troth's Fortune (T-50) was mentioned. Mr. Martin Sokolich suggested Tunis Mills and some of the other villages might have some interesting historic background to provide a good article. He also suggested checking with the Historical Society of Talbot County. The Longwoods School (T-69) was another possibility mentioned. Ms. Peggy Pickall said she will compile a list of ideas for the articles and email it to everyone. Mr. Ward Bucher suggested getting people such as Priscilla Morris, other local historians or possibly college students to write the articles. Ms. Peggy Pickall said she will speak to Priscilla Morris to see if she is interested.
- D. LANDMARKS LIST SURVEY WORK – Mr. Ward Bucher said Mr. Ron Mitchell has been doing a good job toward the survey work, but since Mr. Mitchell was not present, the topic was tabled until the next meeting.
- E. TRAINING SESSIONS FOR TCHPC COMMISSIONERS, AND EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS – Mr. Martin Sokolich advised that there is an education grant in the form of a scholarship that will allow historic commissioners to attend the National Alliance of Preservation Commission forum in Norfolk Virginia in July 2012. The offer

through the Certified Local Government (CLG) program will grant up to \$4,000 for commissioners and staff for educational expenses. Reimbursement is available to cover registration, lodging and mileage, etc. A dollar-for-dollar cash or in-kind match is required to receive the grant reimbursement. The registration and lodging expenses can be paid in advance through the TCHPC budget to be reimbursed later with grant funds. The basic conference registration is \$140.00 for members to be paid by 10 June 2012. Ticketed events would incur additional costs. The application deadline is 30 March 2012. Mr. Sokolich said he will email the details, and the Commissioners will need to notify him by 20 March if they plan to attend. The Commissioners all expressed interest in attending the forum.

Mr. Sokolich said that currently no date has been set for a 2012 Preservation and Revitalization Conference. He also mentioned the Historic Homeowners Expo that is scheduled for 28 April 2012 in Baltimore.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2013 TCHPC BUDGET – Mr. Martin Sokolich distributed a draft of the projected TCHPC budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The budget is projected to remain the same as the 2012 budget. Some of the expenses that have been paid out of the current budget were discussed, as well as funds that came back in the form of CLG money. Mr. Sokolich explained some of the uses of TCHPC funds in past years covered things such as matching funds for the grants on the Old Music Hall and 925 Port Street (T-347). He also advised that a meeting with the County Council regarding the TCHPC budget has not yet been scheduled. Mr. Ward Bucher asked if anyone had anything in mind for which TCHPC should ask for more money. The Landmarks List project was mentioned. Ms. Peggy Pickall commented that the Commission should concentrate on how to spend what it has first because it is difficult to rationalize a need for additional funds if the current funds are not being actively used.
- B. NATIONAL HISTORIC TRUST AND MHT EASEMENTS – Ms. Florence Ball advised the Commissioners that there are two properties in Talbot County that have National Trust easements; Troth's Fortune (T-50) and Myrtle Grove (T-53), and neither of these properties are currently protected by a Talbot County Historic District Overlay (HDO). Shanti Anderheggen who is the Easement Administrator with the National Trust has advised that these particular easements cover only the exteriors of the buildings included in the easement. Ms. Ball explained that to ensure that construction is not begun without approval from the easement holder, before she approves a building permit application for any property which has an historic or environmental easement, she routinely coordinates with the appropriate agency. Currently, the National Trust and MHT historic easements are not listed on the County Resource Development Web Map (GIS), so Ms. Ball is coordinating with the GIS administrator to get them added so they do not get overlooked. Ms. Ball also provided the Commissioners with a list of properties in Talbot County (other than those in the incorporated towns) that currently have MHT easements. Rich Neck Manor (T-211) is currently the only one of those properties which also has a Talbot County HDO.

Ms. Peggy Pickall observed that Wye Plantation does not appear on the list. Ms. Ball explained that not all MHT properties have easements, and possibly this is the case. Ms. Pickall said she is almost certain it does. She and Ms. Ball will both check to see if there is an easement, and if so, it will be added to the list. Ms. Ball suggested adding the owners of National Trust and MHT easement properties to the invitation list for future TCHPC social events. The Commissioners were in support of that idea.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, 2 April 2012, at 3:00 pm in Conference Room One of the Talbot County Office Building at 215 Bay Street in Easton.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:00 pm.

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